



March 2004

Volume XXXIV, No. 2

FREE

ALL QUIET ON THE SOUTHEASTERN FRONT



Interior view of the historic Union Ironworks Machine Shop building near 20th and Illinois. Built in 1886 and used as an active shop through late last year, the massive brick structure is now undergoing mothballing until a development project can be found to fund needed renovation work.

Ralph Wilson photo

Historic Waterfront Machine Shop to be “Mothballed”

Hill Resident Creates New Web Site to Celebrate Shipyards

By John Borg

An important piece of San Francisco's industrial history is closing for good along the Potrero waterfront, but a new online resource has been established to help celebrate and preserve the place.

After 120 years, the huge brick Union Iron Works machine shop building, located at 20th and Illinois Streets, is being prepared for “mothballing,” almost certainly never again to be used for industrial purposes. An unreinforced masonry building, the structure is considered unsafe by the Port of San Francisco until it is seismically retrofitted.

Meanwhile, Potrero Hill resident Ralph Wilson has created and launched a new web site with text and pictures celebrating the distinctive building — and the rest of the Potrero shipyards. It can be found online at www.pier70sf.org.

Once considered among the most important shipbuilding facilities in the world, the Potrero shipyards at Pier 70 produced naval ships for the Spanish-American War, World War I, and World War II, as well as civilian freighters and ferries. They even produced the steel tubes that take BART trains under the Bay.

The distinctive 500-foot-long machine shop structure, officially referred to as Building 113, was built in 1883. It represented the most advanced manufacturing technology of its time, and its skilled workers could make anything from a small bolt to a huge ship engine. Building 113 is already emptied of most of the powerful machine tools and other equipment that helped build and repair hundreds of ships over the years.

Up until January 2004, the San Francisco Drydock Company was still using the machine shop. Now the equipment is moving into other buildings on Pier 70.

Also facing the mothball treatment is the impressive two story office building across the street from the machine shop, the beautiful terra cotta-colored building, known as Building 104, dates from 1896.

To some people, the old shipyards are a curiosity or of purely historic interest. To Wilson, who first stumbled upon the site many years ago, they're a source of photographic inspiration.

“The place feels like the ruins of a bygone era, and that can add a romantic or melancholy feel to photographs. People still work here, but there are parts of the site that feel almost like a ghost town,” he said. “There's always something to photograph — wonderful textures, structures, and shapes. Even the old corrugated steel buildings take on a dignity and beauty, especially early or late in the day, and the views of the bay are spectacular.”

Wilson serves as the Potrero Boosters representative on the Pier 70 Citizens Advisory Group. The group meets periodically to provide citizen input to port officials planning the development of underutilized structures and open space on the site. Wilson was disappointed that after years of planning, a major project involving several arts groups and a private developer to transform parts of Pier 70

(Continued on Page 10)

Power Plant Plans

“Wired for Injustice”?

By John Borg

In what could be a bittersweet aftermath to the community's recent success in helping stop Mirant Corp.'s widely opposed 540-megawatt Potrero Power Plant expansion project, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is now working on an alternative plan to install and operate three or four smaller power generating units near the same site on the central waterfront.

At press time, the issue of new power plants is scheduled to be discussed at a public hearing Thursday, March 4, 9:30 a.m., at San Francisco City Hall, before the City Services Committee. The special hearing will provide an update on implementation of the city's Electricity Resource Plan, including SFPUC plans to site four new natural gas-fired combustion turbine (CT) power plants in San Francisco.

In late 2002, the state of California gave San Francisco the four 46-megawatt CTs, worth an estimated \$33 million, as part of a settlement with an out-of-state energy company that cheated California ratepayers. The CT siting deadline has already been extended from December 2003, and if suitable sites are not secured within the city by April, the units must be returned to the state.

Once sited and operational, the CTs would enhance the city's energy reliability and could allow for more progressive power programs, according to Ed Smeloff, assistant general manager of power policy for the SFPUC. Smeloff says that if the CTs are returned, the city would be given a lesser cash settlement of about \$10 million, and the opportunity to help initiate the phase out of San Francisco's oldest and dirtiest plants would have been lost.

According to recent projections by the California Independent System Operator (CAL ISO), the state agency that regulates the power grid, siting all four CTs in San Francisco would help expedite closure of PG&E's heavily polluting Hunters Point Power Plant. However, it would not allow retirement of Mirant's 36-year-old, 360-megawatt Potrero Power Plant, the worst single stationary source of air pollution in the city.

The four new city-operated units would produce a combined total of about 184 megawatts — and an estimated 37 tons of new air pollution emissions annually.

(Continued on Page 12)

Just How “Super” Was Tuesday, March 2? See Page 2

Editorials: In Our View

Kudos to Newsom

Our hats are off to new mayor Gavin Newsom for his brilliant Valentine's weekend scenario at City Hall: marriage certificates and services for same-sex couples. We are proud that so many flocked to our city from all over the country to obtain a civil right.

San Francisco (and California as well) has been the setting for many significant "first in the West" and "first anywhere" events. Some good, some not so good. Those of us with long memories were probably the first in the U.S. to know that Germany wasn't the only country with concentration camps as our Japanese friends and neighbors disappeared seemingly overnight and spent most of World War II interned in camps. And we remember too that the labor movement's hero Harry Bridges and his feisty Japanese fiancé married in Nevada, due to anti-miscegenation laws in California.

But we were also home to the Summer of Love. We salute Gavin Newsom for this Winter of Love for uniting so many happy couples and for uniting San Francisco itself after a rather divisive mayoral election.

Super Tuesday

Voter turnout in San Francisco on March 2 was the lowest since 1984. According to David Binder, who heads a local research firm, reasons for this include "voter fatigue," and no "hot button" issue to motivate voters to go to the polls.

Democrats cast 40 percent of the vote, Greens 37 percent, the balance was cast by Republicans and others.

State bonds fared well over all. While San Francisco (and the North Coast) voted more strongly than did the rest of the state for Prop 55 (school maintenance and construction), it passed by a narrow 50.4 percent Yes vote.

Prop. 56 was approved by San Franciscans, but was rejected by every other county in the state. Reducing the so-called "super majority" from two-thirds to 55 percent in order to pass the annual state budget looked to eliminate the partisan bickering that always accompanies the budget process. Perhaps San Francisco is a little too far ahead of that curve.

Prop. 57, authorizing \$15 billion in deficit bonds, lost in San Francisco; possibly, according to Binder, because local voters feel there has to be an alternative to this way of raising money.

Locally, Prop. J, the so-called workforce housing measure that would have exempted developers from certain existing restrictions, was rejected by 70 percent of the voters, who were not misled by the prop's provisions. Eighty percent of San Franciscans earn less than the median income of \$110,000 as stated in Prop J, and mortgage payments of over \$2,500 a month for a one-bedroom apartment did not strike voters as affordable. Strong opposition to J from local organizations, and significant community participation in the planning process were also factors in its defeat. To dismantle the controls that have been put in place is a slap in the face of all the participants on both sides of the planning process.

Senator Barbara Boxer came into the winners' circle with a very strong vote, and overall Democratic candidates ran well throughout the state.

The *View's* regular breakdown of how the Hill voted will appear in the April issue.



We Get Letters

Contradiction in Terms?

Editor:

I read John deCastro's editorial in the February *View* and, yes it does seem that Prop J is not the solution. High density housing, however, may very well become necessary.

Mt. deCastro referred to existing plans which would effect the Potrero/Dogpatch area – would it be possible to publish an outline of what these plans are, particularly as they relate to the Third Street corridor? From what I observe, city planning is a contradiction in terms – I still have to go downtown to find a barbershop.

Dick Christian
19th Street

Advice from a Mets Fan

Editor:

I read with some bemusement and a little amusement David Matsuda's piece ("Giants Fans: Don't Be Whiney, Be Happy," February issue) on the laments of being a Giant fan. Or as Matsuda writes, "... in other towns, they celebrate teams that bring home a lot less." I'm from another town, New York, and we don't celebrate for a lot less. We hope a lot more. As in "hope springs eternal." Of course I'm speaking of the National League part of New York. Which is not all that different from the NL part of Chicago and the AL part of Boston. This is suffering and pain big time. Industrial strength angst we're talkin' about. Wait 'till next year ad infinitum. I know. I'm from Brooklyn and remember well the hapless Dodgers going to the World Series again and again and losing again and again. Fortunately I was a Giant fan and watched all this with a slight superiority. The Giants had been there and won many times. But the Giants, and the Dodgers, left for your coast. After the briefest of fandom for the transplanted Giants I eventually became a Mets fan. And a closet BoSox fan. Pick a year, any year, and your heart will be broken by either team. And you'll be whiney and miserable. It's a tradition. We've been doing it for years. Now it's your turn. Next year has come. Get used to it.

Charles Derosier
Long Island, New York



What's Up at The Nabe?

- Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at The Nabe's Celtic Cabaret hosted by the Senior Adaptive and Social Development Center. Wednesday, March 17, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Lunch included. Free. Please call 826-8080 for more information.
- Volunteer tutors are needed at The Nabe to help children, grades 1- 12, with reading, math, science, and history. Call 826-8080 for information.

On-going Meetings:

Alcoholics Anonymous: Mondays & Thursdays at 7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous: Wednesdays at 7:30
AL-ANON: Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
Employment Workshops: Fridays at 10 a.m.

Facilities:

Rental space for theatrical productions, receptions, workshops, meetings
Community bulletin board for employment and event listings
Gymnasium and recreational space

Potrero Hill Neighborhood House
953 De Haro Street / San Francisco, CA 94107
415 / 826-8080
Edward Hatter, Executive Director

The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House is a non-profit agency serving those most in need, with an emphasis on youth and education.
The Nabe is wheelchair accessible.
All services and activities are free.



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S.O.S on Mission Creek

By Ruth Passen

"It was a dark and stormy morning" when Goat Hill Pizza owner Phil DeAndrade left home early on Monday, February 2. At 8:30 a.m., he got a frantic S.O.S. from his partner Sean Fisher and Phil hurriedly returned home.

Sean's call was indeed a for-rue Save Our Ship distress signal: Home for Phil and Sean (and their dog Jasper) is a houseboat named Tiffany on Mission Creek, and Tiffany was sinking.

Within ten minutes of being called, the Fire Department came with emergency equipment and soon the Police Department established protection and safety procedures for other houseboat owners and businesses in the area. Phil also credits "immediate and expert help" of other experts such as divers, riggers, plumbers and shoremen. Employing heavy-duty rented pumps and other devices, these indefatigable helpers spent the rest of the week raising Tiffany.

By Friday, February 6, the boat was up, and through "clever use of nautical knowledge," Phil related, Tiffany was upright by Saturday night.

However, the two-story, two bedroom houseboat was an uninhabitable disaster area. All interior walls were soaked, and everything inside — including the all-electric kitchen — was considered a loss. The experts claimed that everything "down to the studs and framing" was unsalvageable. But, say the owners, "she's afloat!"



The waterlogged Tiffany, the houseboat home of Phil DeAndrade and Sean Fisher, afloat in Mission Creek following the early February storm that almost sank her.

— Bob Isaacson photo

Friends and neighbors waded in to help "People have been kind," said DeAndrade. With help of wheelbarrows, they unloaded the boat, putting aside what few things could be saved and tossing everything else into a "junk" pile. The next step will be to assess the true extent of the damage, and begin repairing it.

Phil and Sean have lived on a houseboat on Mission Creek for about 17 years, and on Tiffany for almost two years. The

tradition for naming boats includes being able to rename one for a variety of reasons. Once Tiffany is renovated and practically rebuilt — hopefully in three months — she will have a new name.

She will become Betty, in honor of the late "grand dame" of the boat community, Betty Boatright, who "taught the people living on the water what it meant to be more than neighbors, but come to the help of anyone who needed it." The

memory of the appropriately named Betty Boatright shone brightly for Phil and Sean during the crisis, and helped them through the worst of this near disaster.

A benefit party to help replace household items and major appliances is being organized. It will be held on April 10 at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. For more information contact Kevin O'Connell, 415-861-3420 or boatcartoon@webtv.net

Women's History Month

'It's Up to the Women!'

By Nancy Pelosi,
House Democratic Leader

This month is National Women's History Month, a time to celebrate those who have contributed to our progress and to recognize those who are changing our communities today.

California continues to lead the way in electing talented women to public office. The list is impressive — from our Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein and our Congresswomen, to our dynamic state legislators and Board of Equalization Chairwoman Carole Migden. And we are proud of our local women elected leaders, including Supervi-

sors Sophie Maxwell, Fiona Ma and newly-appointed Michela Alioto-Pier; our new police and fire chiefs Heather Fong and Joanne Hayes-White; and our City Treasurer Susan Leal and new District Attorney Kamala Harris.

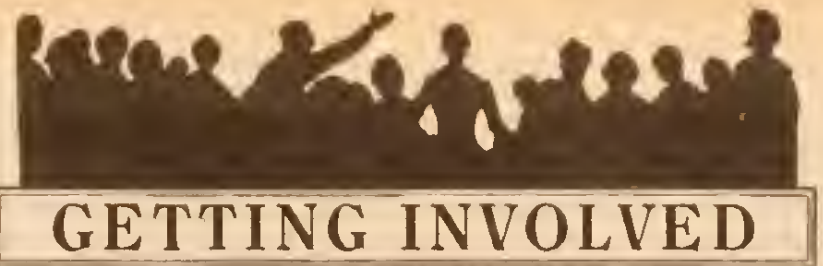
Women make up more than half the population and are among the most knowledgeable and eminent thinkers in every endeavor, from business to science to education to health care to national security. How can you lead a city, a state, or a country without input and ideas from more than half of the citizens?

Women want what men want: opportunity, a safe and prosperous country, the freedom to make the most of our lives and to make our own choices, and the chance to shape the future of our nation.

Yet women continue to struggle for equal opportunity and, in many cases, women continue to struggle to make ends meet. Half of those currently living in poverty are single mothers. Nearly 4 million women are looking for work. Women are still paid only 77 cents for every dollar men earn. And the Republican Congress and the Bush Administration continue to wage an assault on our reproductive rights, believing they know better than women and their doctors what choices to make.

In every field, we must and will be equal partners in determining the future. But we cannot do that unless we make our voices heard on every issue of concern.

That is why I am proud to co-sponsor



NEW LISTING: SFGH Rebuild Updates, neighborhood meetings hosted by S.F. General Hospital every second Wednesday, 6-8 p.m., 2789 25th Street (at Potrero), Rooms 2001-2003. Next meeting: Mar. 10. San Francisco must rebuild its only safety net hospital and trauma center in order to meet higher seismic safety mandates. Call 206-5784 for more info.

ROSES (Residents of the Southeast Sector) meets the first Thursday of each month with members of the S.F. Police Dept. to discuss issues of public concern. The Forum takes place at 7 p.m. in the community facility downstairs at 1800 Oakdale at Phelps. Refreshments served after the meeting. Next two meetings: Mar 4 and Apr. 1.

Potrero Hill Health Center Advisory Board meets the first Monday of the month from 4-5 p.m. at the Health Center, 1050 Wisconsin Street. Meetings are open to the public and the audience is welcome to express opinions. Next two meetings: Mar. 1 and Apr. 5.

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association meets the second Tuesday of each even-numbered month at 7 p.m., at 950 Tennessee Street. Next meeting: April 13.

PHAMB (Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit www.potrerohill.biz. Next meeting: Mar. 9.

PHPA (Potrero Hill Parents' Association) meets on the first Friday of the month in the playground behind the Potrero Hill Recreation Center at Madera and Arkansas streets at 12 noon. Next two meetings: Mar. 5 and Apr. 2.

Starr King Park Openspace Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of each odd-numbered month at 7 p.m., Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th Street. Next meeting: April 20. Volunteer for the Park work days continue every month on the third Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Next work day: Mar. 20 at the park, Carolina Street, south of 23rd. Board's secretary can be reached at 647-2745. Mail: Starr King Park, P.O. Box 880293, San Francisco, CA 94188.

Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time starting at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. For more information visit www.potreroboosters.org or call president Tony Kelly at 341-8040 or e-mail him at president@potreroboosters.org. Next meeting: Mar. 30.

Potrero Hill Garden Club usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Informal discussion will be held on a variety of subjects relating to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's particular mini-climate. Please call 648-6740 for details. Next meeting: Mar. 28.

— Wini Mann



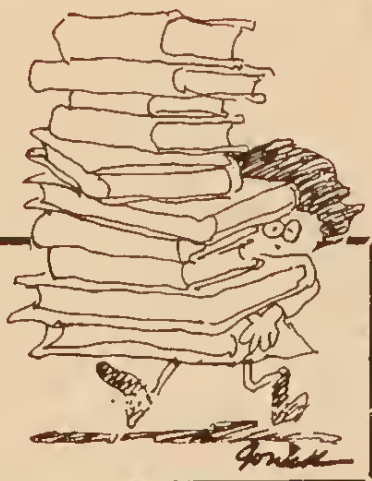
Representative Nancy Pelosi

(Continued on Page 15)

LIBRARY NEWS

POTRERO BRANCH
1616 20th St. / 355-2822

Closed Sunday and Monday
Tuesday: 10 am - 8 pm
Wednesday: 12 noon - 8 pm
Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm
Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm
Saturday: 1 pm - 6 pm



INVITATION TO ARTISTS ON POTRERO HILL

The 49th Annual Potrero Hill Artists Exhibition will open on April 3 at the Potrero Library, and we want your art! If you live, work, or study on Potrero Hill, you are invited to participate in this non-juried exhibition, which will run from April 3 through April 24. Guidelines include the following: each artist may submit up to two pieces if each is 20" x 24" or smaller, one piece if it is larger (no submissions larger than 54" x 54", please). Submissions must be sturdily framed, ready to hang with picture wire securely attached, with the work's title, medium, and the artist's name attached firmly to the submission. We will be accepting submissions of artwork from March 13 through March 27 during the library's open hours. For a full list of exhibition guidelines and more information, please call the library at 355-2822.

INVITATION TO ALL

Be sure to stop by the library during open hours to view artwork done by local artists! The dates are Saturday, April 3 through Saturday, April 24. This exhibition will be Potrero Hill's forty-ninth annual one and is the city's longest-running art show.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Saturday, April 3, 7 to 9 p.m. is the opening reception at the library for the artists' exhibition! Please join us for a celebrative evening, highlighting the work of neighborhood artists. Live music will be performed by the Golden Gate Rhythm Boys.

AND IN PREPARATION FOR THE EXHIBITION . . .

The Potrero Branch Library will be closed to the public on Friday, April 2, so that the planning committee and library staff can hang the art and prepare the facility for the artists' exhibition. Thank you in advance for your patience as we prepare for this annual neighborhood event.

SERVING THE PUBLIC SINCE 1879

In honor of the San Francisco Public Library's 125th anniversary on June 7, all of you, our library users and supporters, are invited to share your thoughts about the Library and what it means to you. Please stop by the library to pick up an entry form, which you can fill out and submit along with your memories, stories, poems, photos, or drawings. Or if you wish, you can go to the library's web site and submit your entries: log on to www.sfpl.org, click on "What's New," then click on "Celebrate the Library's 125th anniversary." All entries should be sent in on or before May 7. For further information, contact the library's Public Affairs department at 557-4277.

UPDATE ON LIBRARY BUDGET

The report from our library's administrators is that funding for the city's libraries

remains stable, thanks in large part to Proposition E, which San Franciscans voted in several years ago. It should be noted that, as always, the situation with the budget is fluid.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS IN MARCH

- Word for Word Performing Arts Company returns to the Potrero Branch Library on Saturday, March 20 at 4 p.m. to present *The Wonderful Story of Zaal: A Persian Legend*. For ages 5 and older. This program is funded by the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library.

- Infant/toddler lapsit, featuring stories, songs, and rhymes on Thursdays, March 4, 11 and 18 at 10:30 a.m. For children newborn through age 3.

- Evening storytime on Tuesdays, March 16, 23, and 30 at 7 p.m. For ages 3 and older.

- Evening films on Tuesday, March 9 at 7 p.m.: *Dragon Stew*, *Dr. De Soto* and *Red Ball Express*. For ages 3 and older.

Please note that for programs listed above, the programming room is not accessible by elevator. Also, contact library staff in advance for group reservations.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: BOOKS ON ORDER

Here are some of the titles that recently were ordered for Potrero Branch Library:

The Flash of Lightning Behind the Mountain: New Poems, by Charles Bukowski

Rachel and Leah: The Women of Genesis, by Orson Scott Card

I Am No One You Know: Stories, by Joyce Carol Oates

The Best American Mystery Stories, 2003, edited by Michael Connelly; Otto Penzler, series editor

South Beach Diet Cookbook: Good Fats/ Good Carbs Guide, by Arthur Agatston

Potsticker Chronicles: Favorite Chinese Recipes and Family Fables, by Stuart Chang Berman

BOOKS ON ORDER FOR CHILDREN

Audubon: Painter of Birds in the Wild Frontier, by Jennifer Armstrong

Albert Einstein: A Life of Genius, by Elizabeth MacLeod

The Good Dog, by Avi

Nowhere to Call Home, by Cynthia De Felice

The Magic Gourd, by Baba Wague Diakite

A Huge Hog is a Big Pig: A Rhyming Word Game, by Francis McCall

Jens Woo

Potrero Branch Library Manager

TEN YEARS AGO

In The View

PLANS FOR THE BRANCH LIBRARY?

The threat to close the Potrero Branch Library was ended when Mayor Frank Jordan fired six of the seven members of the Library Commission, who had voted to close some branches if the Mayor persisted in demanding further cuts in the bare-bones Library budget. Chief of Branches Neel Parikh told *The View* that despite the fact that Potrero Branch serves a small geographic area, it is extremely high in circulation per capita and in the percentage of children's books among all books taken out. A number of different proposals have been discussed, including downgrading to a Reading Center, which does not require a Librarian, staffing by volunteers and non-professionals. Library activists filed more than 67,000 petition signatures to put a charter amendment for library funding on the June ballot, which would require a two thirds vote to pass, and would require the city to set aside \$20 million from the general fund, and 2.25 cents from every \$100 of property taxes for the Library. It would also guarantee that for five years all 26 branches would remain open.

NEIGHBORS TAKE ACTIVE MEASURES TO STOP CRIME

Today there are some 15 Neighborhood Watch groups that meet monthly in living rooms around the Hill, to discuss concerns about crime and safety on the block, meet police officers who patrol their area, and compile phone trees and block maps. Jim Harris told of an incident when he noticed a strange car parked in the driveway of a neighbor who was away on vacation. He called the police and notified his neighbors to watch out for the license number of the car as it drove by. The police arrived at the end of the block before the car could turn the corner. Some groups have organized neighbors to paint out graffiti, and persuaded the Traffic Commission to install stop signs and crosswalks in areas where speeding cars have been a danger.

POTRERO POLICE STATION CRAMPED AND OVERCROWDED

Employees at Potrero Station have complained that it is a cramped and difficult place to work. It covers a very large area on the eastern side of the city, and includes several areas of public housing. It is a small aged building. There are remnants of stables at the back of the building, indicating it may have been built as far back as the end of the 19th century. The interior is dreary, paint is peeling on the walls, and the roof leaks, so that when it rains, the copy machine has to be relocated. Conducting routine police business is difficult because of lack of space. There are no interview rooms, so that suspects have to be interviewed on a bench in the main room or in a tiny kitchen at the back. There are two jail cells, for men only. Plans to build a new station on Williams Street, although funded several years ago, have been repeatedly delayed and interrupted.

YOUNG PEOPLE TURN OUT FOR TREE PLANTING

With help from the Department of Public Works, young people were schooled in techniques of tree planting at Potrero Terrace on 25th Street. The DPW cement shop removed gravel from the corner of Connecticut and 25th, and then the youngsters and some adults planted more than 60 trees, donated by the DPW and City Attorney Louise Renne. At the same time, a cleanup crew from Youth Guidance Center worked at the Caleb Clark Clinic under the watchful eye of SLUG's Joshua Bloom and the clinic's Cheryl Denson.

"STAY IN SCHOOL" KICKS OFF AT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Potrero Hill Middle School hosted the kickoff press conference for a nationwide "Stay in School" campaign February 2. Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin, Chair of the Assembly Education Committee, headed a list of speakers, including Dr. Leland Yee, President of the SF Board of Education, Waldemar Rojas, Superintendent of Schools, William Apfelbaum, president of the campaign's sponsor, Transportation Displays, Inc., and Tiffany Davis, an eighth grade student at the school. The three-month campaign will feature "Stay in School" posters on the sides of 3000 buses.

ART SHOW TO OPEN APRIL 2 (*Remember folks, that was 10 years ago!*)

The 39th Annual Potrero Hill Artists Exhibition at the Potrero Branch Library will open on Saturday, April 2, and run through April 30. The exhibition is unjuried. Artists who live or work on Potrero Hill may show two works, which must be delivered to the library ready for hanging no later than March 22, and must be retrieved no later than 5 p.m. April 30. On April 2 there will be a reception honoring the artists.

AND TWENTY YEARS AGO . . . Parkview Heights construction starts . . . Community protests shelve heliport plans . . . Potrero Terrace has resident apprentice painter . . . Potrero Police Station has new captain, Roger Maloney . . . Funding cuts curtailed the Julian Theater season of drama . . . Artists who had created live/work spaces in the old American Can Co. building at Third and 20th being evicted because of code violations by the owner.

— Bernie Gershater

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If you are searching for a story that ran in *The Potrero View* a long time ago, take a look at the bound volumes at the Potrero Branch Library which contain every issue, from the very first one in 1970 through 2000. Also at the library are unbound issues from 2001 to the present. All these materials are available for use at the library.



Americorps volunteers at Starr King Openspace, April 2003.

Margo Bors photo

Community Leader Wins First Maxwell Award

By Ruth Passen

At the Omega Boys and Girls Club Kwanza event in January, Shervon Hunter, one of the first female members of Omega, was honored by the club with an award for her work in the community. The award, the first of its kind, is named for Enola D. Maxwell, the late Executive Director of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House.

Hunter, the surprised recipient of this award was happily speechless, but told the *View* that though she wasn't expecting an award, where there was work to be done "Ms. Maxwell used to always say to me 'who better do it than yourself?'" The plaque's inscription says "for living the spirit and doing the work."

Hunter, 34, has always been very busy with community work and has also managed to complete a college career, graduating from Delaware State College with bachelor's degrees in psychology and in criminal justice.

She is the After Care Services Coordinator at the Hamilton Family Center Homeless Shelter for families, and also advises youngsters at Juvenile Hall.

As a graduate of the Omega Club, Hunter is helping set up a speakers bureau, and is organizing the Omega alumni, which now includes 81 college graduates as of 2003.

Potrero Hill native Hunter has taught a basketball clinic at the Rec Center on



Shervon Hunter

Ruth Passen photo

Arkansas Street, and education life skills there as well. She still finds plenty of time to spend with her two daughters (nine and 11 years old), and includes them in the field trips and sleepovers she organizes for the youngest Omega kids.

She has a mammoth amount of energy and fully expects to add new creative ideas to her curriculum.

Spring Comes to Starr King

by Susanne K Shields

Beginning this month and for the next four to five months, the most extensive wildflower display on Potrero Hill will sequentially bloom along Carolina Street south of 23rd. There are more than 150 plant types growing on the 5-acre site, about 30 of which were used by indigenous peoples as food stuffs.

Created in 1984 by community activism, Starr King Openspace is owned by a non-profit corporation holding title to the largest land trust in San Francisco. Managed by Hill residents through an elected Board of Directors, it is the only hilltop park in San Francisco not owned and managed by the city's Recreation and Park Dept.

Each year the openspace hosts walk/talks on the plants, geology and ecology of the land (and Potrero Hill). Bird and butterfly events are planned for this year also, and native annual seeds and plants will be available for sale to gardeners. Members of the board and volunteers have put together an educational display tent and children's activities for the Potrero Hill festival the last three years.

This past year, the openspace has benefited from the prodigious efforts of hundreds of volunteers who come from S.F. high schools, Bay Area colleges and service groups as well as a loyal group of Hill residents, to clear trash, cut and remove more than 15,000 invasives (e.g., fennel and star thistle), propagate and plant native growths gathered from seeds of remnant pockets all over Potrero Hill, thus enriching the openspace and preserving plants being lost to development. Trees and shrubs are being planted this year to create habitat for birds, butterflies, insects

and small animals. Openspace workdays are on the third Saturday of each month, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call Margo at 824-0471 or Ralph at 293-3080 to join us.

Committees of the board (Maintenance, Education and Children's Activities, Finance and Socially Responsible Investing, Planning, Community Outreach, and the propagation nursery) also welcome your participation. Email Susanne at susannekshields@yahoo.com or call 810-4900.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting and election of directors will be Tuesday April 20, 7 p.m., at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. Candidates must live on Potrero Hill, be committed to the goals of the openspace, and be available for board meetings and committee work. Proof of residency (California driver's license, for example) is required at the door in order to vote. The League of Women Voters will oversee the election and tabulate results. Refreshments will be served and an educational display will be set up. Candidate statements of 200 words or less should address how the experience and concerns of the candidate benefit the needs of the openspace, and should be mailed along with proof of residency to the secretary at Starr King Openspace P.O. Box 880293 SF 94188-0293. For further information contact the secretary at 415-810-4900. Activities of Starr King Openspace are listed monthly in the Getting Involved column in *The Potrero View*.

Susanne K. Shields is Secretary of Starr King Openspace.



Help Feed the Hungry

Martin de Porres House of Hospitality,
224 Potrero Avenue (16th Street),
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BEFORE THE INTERNET



THERE WAS SOMETHING CALLED A BOOK.

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Get answers to your questions about public safety, traffic, recreation, Muni, clean streets, and other important city issues.



These Victorian homes on Minnesota Street were built in the late 1800s for working-class families living in Dogpatch.

John Borg photo

Dogpatch Historic District to be Featured at Preservation Conference

By Jody Sanford

The state's premiere historic preservation conference this year will feature the Victorians of the Dogpatch Residential Historic District during a four-day confab to be held at the Presidio of San Francisco from April 28 to May 1.

Held against a Golden Gate backdrop, the California Preservation Conference will attract up to 800 community activists, government officials, and leaders in the preservation movement. The event offers educational sessions, tours, and social events in historic venues. The Dogpatch tour is one of a limited number of "mobile workshops" that will travel outside the park to other Bay Area sites.

In 2000, the Dogpatch Neighbor-

hood Association (DNA) co-sponsored an historic resource survey with San Francisco Architectural Heritage, resulting in Dogpatch being named an historic district — the first such achievement in more than a decade. The conference "walking tour workshop" will discuss Dogpatch's history, the founding of the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association, and recent preservation successes. Susan Eslick, DNA president, will be a featured speaker. The tour will be held on April 29.

Themed *Building Bridges*, the California Preservation Conference explores how historic preservation can enhance quality of life and economic development in communities — big and small, urban and rural — throughout California. It is the first time the event has been held at the Presidio.

To register for the entire conference, or just for a single day's activities, visit www.californiapreservation.org or call (415) 495-0349.

The California Preservation Conference is sponsored by the California Preservation Foundation, the Presidio Trust, the National Park Service, the Fort Point and Presidio Historical Association, and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

Jody Sanford is Public Affairs Specialist for the Presidio Trust.



Happy Birthday . . .

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY: Sholem Aleichem (1859), St. Theresa of Avila (1515), Barbie debuts (1959), Sally Burns, Black men win right to vote (1870), Alexander Graham Bell gets patent for first telephone (1876), Luther Burbank (on Arbor Day, 1849), Cesar Chavez (1927), Pat Cleaver, Nat King Cole (1919), Ornette Coleman (1930), Columbus sets sail for Indies (1492), Carol Cuenod, Congress appropriates \$30,000 to introduce camels into Southwest (1855), Nanette Dorr, Wyatt Earp (1846), earmuffs patented (1887), Veva Edelson, Albert Einstein (1879), Dave Fujimoto, first message transmitted by telephone (1876), first tavern in America (Boston, 1634), first Dixieland jazz record (1917), first space walk (USSR, 1965), Bertie Garvey, Bryne Golec, Emma Goldman (1869), Marcus Garvey arrives in America from Jamaica (1916), Ernesto Hernandez, Patricia "Tania" Hearst convicted of bank robbery (1976), Lol Halsey, Rebecca and Jeff Hostetler, Casey Jones, Julius Cesar executed (44BC), Rosie Koopman-Rowe, Della Lopipero, Matt Meblin, Katherine McNeil, Tom Murray, Miriam Makeba, National Procrastination Week (March 6-12), National Umbrella Month, Flannery O'Connor (1925), Ovid (43BC), Steve Passin, Purim (14 Adar 5764), Carl Reiner, Archbishop Oscar Romero assassinated (El Salvador, 1980), Maribel Rodriguez, St. Patrick's Day, Sally Seymour, Dr. Seuss, swallows return to Capistrano (March 19), Steve Voris, LaVette Virden, Jane Wenham tried as witch for talking to her cat and flying (1712), Frank Weatherman, last prisoner to leave Alcatraz (1963).

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THE EXPLORATORIUM: 3601 Lyon Street, Palace of Fine Arts. Hours: Tuesdays-Sundays 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: \$8-\$12; members, children under 4, and first Wednesdays free. Events included in the price of admission to museum. For more info, 415-EXP-LORE.

Sunday, March 14 is Pi Day — pi is that number that goes on forever, starting with 3.14159. Celebrate Alfred Einstein's birthday at the Exploratorium on 3/14 culminating at 1:59 p.m. (Get it?) Gather around the Pi Shrine to perform pi-related rites and eat ritual food — pie donated by Marie Callender's. At 1 p.m. attend the U.S. premiere of George Csicsery's *Porridge, Pulleys and Pi, Two Mathematical Journeys*.

Saturday, March 20, noon to 4 p.m. *The Physics of Toys* — discover what makes magic tricks tick.



CRISSY FIELD CENTER: 603 Mason at Halleck in the Presidio. For more info call 415-561-7690 or visit www.crisseyfield.org.

Free drop-in activities, 10 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m.:

Saturday, March 6, *Sustainable Arts Workshop*

Saturday, March 20, *Urban Ecology Lab*

Sunday, March 28, *Media Lab*

Urban Biking Street Skills and On-the-Road Repairs, Workshop for Teens and Adults, Sunday March 7, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. \$18 per person. To register call 561-7752.

Family Campfire Talk with "Juan Bautista de Anza," Saturday, March 27, 6-7:30 p.m. \$5 per person. To register call 561-7752. Dress warmly.

River of Words, exhibit of children's creative interpretations of their home grounds from the annual contest, co-founded by former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Hass and Berkeley writer Pamela Michael. Wednesdays-Sundays through March 31, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free.



S.F. PUBLIC LIBRARY: Unless otherwise noted, all events take place at the Main Library, 100 Larkin at Grove. Call 415-557-4277 for more info about these and other library events.

Saturday, March 6: *Crossroads-The Irish American Cultural Festival*, Irish American music, literature, history and panel discussions; *The Gasmen, A Traditional Irish Musical Ensemble*, Koret Auditorium, 2- 3:30 p.m.; *Hybrid Irish Histories*, readings by Hasia Diner, Peter Linebaugh, Kerby Miller and Patrick O'Sullivan, Koret Auditorium, 3:30 to 5 p.m. More Irish events on Saturday, March 13.

Saturday, March 6: *Poets for Peace*, an afternoon of poetry with Washington D.C.-based poet Peter Klappert and Bay Area poets Leonard Nathan, Carol Snow and Peter Streckfus, Lower Level, Latino/Hispanic Meeting Room, 2-4 p.m.

Sunday, March 7: *The Soul-Making Literary Competition Awards Reading*, Koret Auditorium, 1 p.m., with a reception in the Latino/Hispanic Meeting Room at 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 10: *From Kiev to California and Back*, Klezmer Music and History, Koret Auditorium, 6 p.m.

Saturday, March 20: *Don't Rain on My Reign!*, featuring the Farley comic strip appearance of "His Williness," former S.F. Mayor Willie Brown, book talk and author signing with Phil Frank, Koret Auditorium, 1 p.m.

Through March 21: *The Best in Books and Art: Paul Elder and Company, 1898-1968*, a survey of the career of the proprietor of the best-known bookstore in S.F. and publisher of almost 400 books. Sixth Floor, Skylight Gallery.

Through March 22: *Bayboards: Forgotten Landscapes Reappear*, photos, maps, and historical documents from the collections of the S.F. History Center. Sixth Floor, History Center display cases.

Through April 8: *Balancing Acts: What Having Children Has Done for Three Prima Ballerinas*, an exhibition of 22 black and white photographs of S.F. Ballet's Tina Le Blanc, Kristin Long, and Katita Waldo by Lucy Grey. Sixth Floor, Steve Silver Beach Blanket Babylon Music Center.



MODERN TIMES BOOKSTORE: Unless otherwise noted all events take place at the bookstore, 888 Valencia Street at 20th. Call 415-282-9246 for more info about these and other Modern Times events.

Friday, March 5, 7:30 p.m. *Jo Freeman: At Berkeley in the Sixties: The Education of an Activist*. Jo Freeman has published extensively about feminism, social movements, and political parties in scholarly journals, popular magazines, and anthologies.

Saturday, March 6, 3 p.m., *The Modern Woman Revisited: Paris Between the Wars*. Editors Whitney Chadwick (Potrero Hill resident) and Tirza True Latimer talk about the public, artistic, and intellectual life of such women as Colette, Tamara de Lempicka, Sonia Delaunay, Djuna Barnes, Augusta Savage, and Lee Miller.

Friday, March 19, 7:30 p.m., *Pie Any Means Necessary: The Biotic Baking Brigade*, by Agent Apple. The history, analysis and tactics and recipes for the use of the cream pie as a direct action technique.



GROUP ART EXHIBITION: *Heads n' Tails*, through April 10 at the Creativity Explored Gallery, 3245 16th Street at Guerrero, featuring monoprints, relief prints and mixed media work printed on found materials. Artists include Kelly Clark, Hope Goodall, Vincent Jackson, Melody Lima, Sara O'Sullivan and Ernesto Sosa. Creativity Explored is a visual art center where artists with developmental disabilities create, exhibit, and sell their works.



ART IN CITY HALL: Civic Center, between Polk and Van Ness, Grove and McAllister. For more info call 415-554-6080.

March 3 to May 8, temporary exhibitions of art programmed by the Arts Commission Gallery, including *415/514*, photographs by Amand Marchand; *Bay Area Seen*, a juried exhibition of works by members of the California Society of Printmakers; *George Clapper: Building Studies*, a collection of black and white photographs documenting the architecture of San Francisco; *First 5: Family Focus*, photos and stories that document the experiences of families in S.F. First 5 programs.



SOUTHERN EXPOSURE: Project Artaud, 401 Alabama Street.

March 5 through April 17: Four solo exhibitions: *Advances in Exterior Siding*, sculpture by David Hardy that reference the temporary curiosities of traveling art fairs, carnivals, and roadside tourist attractions; *Root Hormone*, drawing and installation by Suzanne Husky, inspired by conversations with friends from the Adams Botanical Society; *Portrait of a Family*, paintings by Lien Truong that explore the structure and reality of contemporary families in America's demographic melting pot; *In the Overlook*, young adults aged 17-23 collaborate to present an On-Site Education Program, investigating fabric, its inherent qualities, and how it can be applied to large scale installations. The opening reception for this project is March 17, 2-4 p.m.

Saturday, March 27: 11 a.m. -5 p.m., *Untethered*, a daylong event featuring mobile and nomadic artists' projects that interact with the public through mobility and service. This event will be held on the sidewalk outside of the Southern Exposure Gallery. For more info, call Kristen Evangelista at 863-2142 or programs@soex.org.



SECRET BIRDING SPOTS: The City's Southeastern Shore. Greater species diversity than Crissy Field here in our own neighborhood. Led by birder Alan Hopkins, the trip is suitable for ages 15 and up. Saturday, March 6, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. \$30. For more info and to register call 415-750-7100.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY celebration Sunday, March 6, noon-3 p.m., Women's Building, 3543 18th Street, between Guerrero and Valencia. The afternoon will feature distinguished speakers and artists, and an exhibition sponsored by various local women's groups. Suggested donation \$18, children free. On-premises child care available for \$5; if child care is needed RSVP by March 5 to sfinternationalwomensday@yahoo.com



ASIAN AMERICAN FILM, free workshop for parents and teachers. Monday, March 8, 7:30-9:30 p.m., 9th Street Independent Film Center, 145 Ninth Street. How Asian American films and video can be used to engage high school students in appreciating cultural diversity. Info: www.naatanet.org.



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION. *Emerging Jewish Ecological Action* — Panel and Discussion, part of the Jewish Community Library's "Green Judaism" Series, with Rabbi Dan Goldblatt, Adam Stern, Philip M. Klasky, and Deborah Newbrun. Spot-lighted will be the participants' diverse modes of ecological activism. Wednesday, March 10, 7:30 p.m., Jewish Community Library, 1835 Ellis Street. Parking is available in the building on Pierce Street between Ellis and Eddy. For more info contact Judy Baston at 567-3327, ext 704.



HARVEY MILK CIVIL RIGHTS ACADEMY invites you to the 7th annual silent auction Saturday, March 13, noon-4 p.m., 4235 19th Street, at Collingwood. Free parking. The auction includes hotel, restaurant and spa certificates, classes like yoga and pilates, entertainment, sports events, wine, art by children and local artists, and items donated by local merchants from Potrero Hill. For more info call 241-6276. Auction preview at www.sfusd.edu/schwww/sch505/fundraisers/index.html.



POTRERO GARDENS, 1201 17th Street (at Texas), presents James Armstrong of the San Francisco Rose Society who will tell you everything you need to know about proper rose care using organic or chemical methods, Saturday, March 13 at 11 a.m. Free.



ARTISTS SOUGHT by the S.F. Arts Commission for temporary arts projects on Market Street. Practicing, professional artists working in a variety of media should submit applications by 5 p.m. on March 15. Application materials are available online at www.sfgov.org/sfac/pubart. For more info call Judy Moran at 252-2586.



THE GRAY PANTHERS meet Tuesday, March 16, 1-3 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Center, 1187 Franklin at Geary. Former KQED Newsroom host Henry Kroll will report on the National Media Reform Conference held in Wisconsin, to discuss changes needed to break the media monopoly and thwart further media consolidation. For info 552-8800.



GOT ALLERGIES? Carl Hangee-Bauer, ND, LAc, will present the latest research on allergies and treatment with natural medicine Wednesday, March 24, 7:30-8:30 p.m., SOMA Acupuncture & Natural Health Clinic, 20th and Connecticut streets. Space limited, call Michele at 643-6600 to reserve a seat.



TRANS-PACIFIC MIGRATIONS OF THE ALBATROSS & OTHERS with marine biologist Peter Pyle. Thursday, March 25, 7:30 p.m., Randall Museum Theater, 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above 14th and Castro streets). Learn about the amazing travels and travails of the albatross and other oceanic creatures. Free. For more info: 415-554-9600 or www.randallmuseum.org.



ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUPS. At least ten groups, sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association, have regular open-discussion meetings at various locations throughout the city. Free. Info: 800-660-1993.



SENIOR GET-AWAY to Camp Mather, near Yosemite, June 6-10 and/or August 22-26. More than 30 outdoor (and indoor) activities are offered; round-trip bus ride from four pick-up points in S.F. included. Applications available late March. For info write Peter Oquendo, Senior Adult Program, McLaren Lodge, 501 Stanyan Street, San Francisco 94117. Please include an SASE.



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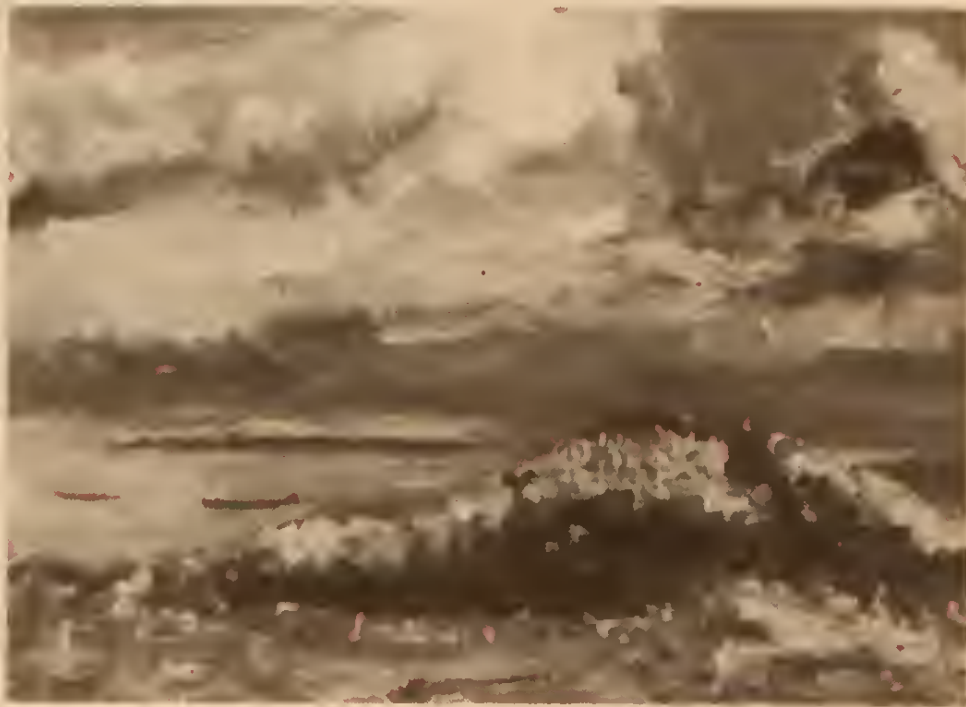
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FREEMAN PAINTINGS AT GOAT HILL



"Potrero Hill," by Jack Freeman, 2000. Oil, 18"x20"

Oil paintings, including views of the city and of Potrero Hill, by San Francisco artist Jack Freeman are on display at Goat Hill Pizza, 18th and Connecticut streets. A reception for the artist will take place Sunday, March 14, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. The Babar Jug Band, a blue grass and folk ensemble in which Freeman plays, will provide music for the event. The group has been performing "South of the Slot" for the last 15 years.

Freeman, born 1938 in Virginia, came to San Francisco in 1964 where he received bachelor's and master's degrees from the San Francisco Art Institute. In the late 1960s and early 70s he lived on Texas Street at 18th and had a studio nearby.

He is currently on the Community Relations Board of the South of Market Cultural Center, and a member of the Issues Committee of the Human Rights Commission of San Francisco.

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Attention, POTRERO HILL ARTISTS

Artists who live, work, or study on Potrero Hill are invited to participate in the **49th Annual Potrero Hill Artists Exhibition**, April 3 through April 24, 2004 at the Potrero Branch of the San Francisco Public Library.

Guidelines include the following:

- Submissions must be sturdily framed, ready to hang with picture wire securely attached, with the work's title, medium, and artist's name firmly attached.
- Each artist may submit up to two pieces if each piece is 20" x 24" or smaller, one piece if it is larger. Please, no submissions larger than 54" x 54" in size.
- Artwork will be accepted from March 13 through March 27, 2004 during the library's open hours (Tue 10-8, Wed 12-8, Thu 10-6, Fri & Sat 1-6).

For full details, please contact library staff at
1616 - 20th Street, phone (415) 355-2822.

Pop! Goes the Lobster

Killing My Lobster attempts the impossible — to deliver a witty sketch comedy show, taking aim at pop culture and celebrity, all without making a single Michael Jackson joke! Can it be done? The answer is elusive, but please, don't try this dangerous stunt at home. *Killing My Lobster Pop!* promises a delirious spin through the celebrity cycle, celebrating the myriad highs of low culture and attempting to prove once and for all why the media begins with "me."

To see for yourself if it is possible to avoid the quagmire of the king of pop, see this show at Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida Street, through March 7. Showtimes are Wednesday through Friday, March 3, 4, and 5 at 8 p.m., Saturday March 6 at 7:30 and 10 p.m., and Sunday March 7 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12-17 and can be purchased at www.killingmylobster.com.

Fall Up Gets Down

Fall Down Get Up is both pretty good advice and the title of Naomi Newman's new one-woman play. Incorporating songs (in German, Yiddish, Hebrew, and English), jokes, poetry, and dance, Ms. Newman presents a tableau of female characters culled from history, literature, and that ripest of sources — the imagination.

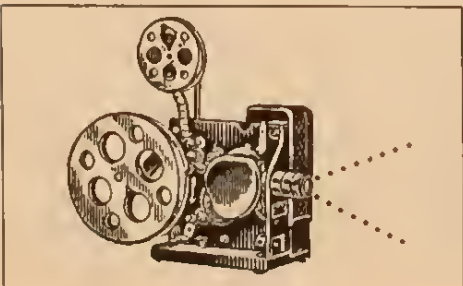
Celebrate National Women's History Month by viewing *Fall Down Get Up* at the traveling Jewish Theatre, 470 Florida Street, March 3 through 21. Performances are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$18-30. For tickets and additional information call 415-285-8080 or visit www.atjt.com.

Karaoke at the Movies

First there was *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* phenomenon — midnight showings of a cult film that were transformed into an elaborate kitsch event. In full Dr. Frankenfurter regalia, tried-and-true groupies would take over the movie theater, recite chunks of screenplay, engage in elaborate routines, and act out the movie as if in the throes of a religious fit.

The idea of interactive theater, or of going to the movies as a far from passive event, was then re-imagined with the *Sing-A-Long Sound of Music*, where crowds dressed in habits and leiderhosen gathered to sing *Edelweiss*, with tongues firmly planted in cheek.

So what other classic camp fave can cause us all to dress up in absurd costumes and play extended drinking games in our local cineplex? Follow the yellow brick road to the obvious — *The Sing-A-Long Wizard of Oz*. Expect Tin Men, Cowardly Lions, Wicked Witches, and Munchkins galore to descend upon the Castro Theater, singing along with Dorothy and hissing at the Wicked Witch, as emcee Connie Champagne leads them through a comical interactive guidebook. It's karaoke meets Halloween meets the movies, which means absurdity every way you look. *The Sing-A-Long-Wizard of Oz* runs from March 12-25, at the Castro Theater, Monday through Sundays at 7 p.m. and Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday matinees at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$12-22 and can be purchased at 1-866-468-3399.



Performing Arts Roundup

By Sandhya Dirks



Dancer/choreographer Michelle Bolong performs at the 6th Annual POMO.

POMO at Yerba Buena

Kularts in association with Yerba Buena Center for the Arts presents the 6th annual POMO — Post Modern American Pilipino Performance Project. POMO was created in 1998 by a consortium of Pilipino American contemporary artists to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the "sale" of the Philippines to the U.S. by Spain and the beginning of the Pilipino-American War. While the historical content implicit in the group seems to take a swipe at typical notions of post-modernism, what POMO seeks to elevate is the Pilipino American post-modern aesthetic through dance, music, theater by a new generation of Pilipino American artists.

This year's POMO spotlights the collision of the ancient with the present by the 20-member Ating Tao Drum Circle; the premier of dancer/choreographer Michelle Bolong's *Awakening the Womb*; the improvisational theater group Room to Improv; spoken word performed by Jerome Tait Carreon to the rhythm of clapping bamboos and ancient gongs; and the study language, immigration, and culture through both word and movement by Malaya Timawa Dimaapi. Performances of POMO are at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission Street, Saturday March 27 at 8 p.m. and Sunday March 28 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$13-15. Call 415-239-0249.

Farewell Concert

Rebeca Mauleon and her Round Trip Ensemble culminate their three-year residency at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts with a grand finale concert. The performance will feature two full-length premiere works, *Telling Stories*; *Singing Life* and *Suite for the Americas*. Mauleon weaves together strands of poetry, spoken word, and world music in her compositions. See this farewell concert Friday March 12 at 8 p.m. at YBCA Forum, 701 Mission Street. Tickets are \$10-18 and can be purchased at 415-978-2787 or by visiting www.YerbaBuenaArts.org.



Michaela Greeley and Craig Souza in *Three Hotels*. Georgia Morrow photo

Is Women's Work Finally Finished?

Contrary to the cliché, women's work is finally done. But wait, calm down, it's only a temporary reprieve, happening because Venue 9 is moving. Does this mean that soon we will be going to Venue 10? Perhaps, but what it certainly means is that this month's *Women's Work* program will be the last Footloose production at 252 Ninth Street. *Women's Work* was the first and has been the most consistent series at the theatre, showcasing the work of over 800 diverse ladies. With different age groups, cultural backgrounds, and artistic mediums, *Women's Work* has brought more than 800 women to the stage to share their creations. This final Venue 9 performance shows on Tuesdays, March 9, 16, and 23 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$8-10 and can be purchased at 415-289-2000.

2 Chickens and a Bear

Theatre of Yugen's monthly series, Yugen Presents, brings their second annual offering of Kyogen comedies to Noh Space. Kyogen is a type of Japanese theater that emerged 600 years ago during the Samurai age as a companion to Noh. Where as Noh is patently melodramatic, Kyogen is the funny stuff — the *Saturday Night Live* of historical Japanese theater. As with all good comedy, it derives from slice of life situations, using mime, singing, dancing, and dialogue to find the funny in the day-to-day.



Stephen Siegel in *2 Chickens* Kagami photo

This season's offering is *SORYA! 2 Chickens and a Bear*, Kyogen adaptations of two classic Western comedies — Pirandello's *Two Chickens* and Chekhov's *The Bear*. The stock characters of Kyogen — servants and priests, angry wives and outwitted husbands — are perfectly suited for bringing these absurdist masterpieces to the stage. Also featured will be a translation of the classic Kyogen comedy, *Shimizu*. To see how an ancient Eastern form dovetails with a modernist Western sensibility to highlight the universality of funny, catch *SORYA!* at Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa Street. The show runs Friday March 19 through April 4, Friday and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$13-20. For reservations or information call 415-621-7978.

Hotel Hell

Eastenders Repertory Company presents *Three Hotels*, a play that purports to tackle issues of personal and global responsibilities during our current era of American economic colonialism. While the script, written by Jon Robin Baitz, confronts vital and contemporary themes represented by the dislocation of corporate existence and hotel life, it may be necessary to note that none of the featured hotels is Paris Hilton. Just so you know. The hotel rooms featured are located in Morocco, the Virgin Islands, and Mexico, and populated, off and on, by the characters of Kenneth Hoyle and his wife Barbara. Kenneth is a man whose idealism — embodied in his peace corps days — has morphed cleanly and terrifyingly into cynicism, the cynicism of an international businessman selling defective baby formula to third world countries. His wife, in a different hotel room in the Virgin Islands, is a deceptively perfect corporate soulmate, a woman who can no longer condone the personal tragedy that has befallen her while she has simultaneously submerged her questions about her husband's work. Set within the impersonal walls of three hotel rooms, the play seems to emphasize the ultimate irony of globalization — that a more global world has left us with a human disconnect. *Three Hotels* opens Friday, March 19 and continues through April 11 at Thick House, 1695 18th Street. Showtimes are Wednesdays through Saturdays 8 p.m. and Sundays at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$15-20 and can be purchased at 415-401-8081.

Pier 70

(Continued from Page 1)

into an exciting new cultural resource for the city fell through when the economy tanked a few years ago. He is hopeful another appropriate project will come along to help fund needed improvements to historic resources, but admits that seeing the site's two oldest buildings mothballed is difficult.

"Barricades and boarded-up windows are not very attractive. And without people working on site, it will be hard to protect the buildings from vandals or squatters," he said. "The buildings are deteriorating fast, and, of course, a medium-

sized earthquake could destroy them. At the same time, we hear there's interest in the old buildings from some major cultural institutions, so there's reason for hope."

A technical writer by profession, Wilson plans to keep adding to the web site and welcomes contributions from people with knowledge or images to add. "I'm certainly not an expert on history or architecture, but I decided not to let that stop me," he said. "I want the site to help get the word out about this great place so we can save it and transform it into a real urban asset."

John Borg lives and works in Dogpatch, and co-chairs the Pier 70 Citizens Advisory Group for the Port of S.F. He can be reached at borg@three8.com.

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(Translation on page 16)

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To celebrate its 15th anniversary, Farley's will offer live Irish music during the morning of Wednesday, March 17 (St. Patrick's Day), and hold a reception that evening, beginning 7 p.m. On view during March is the PhotoBooth Show, fea-



Roger Hillyard Christopher Irion photo

turing photographs of 533 Farley's customers by local artist Christopher Irion.

Other March events at Farley's: Daniel Berkman on the African harp, March 19, 8 p.m.; singer/songwriter Tristan Kromer, March 25, 7 p.m.

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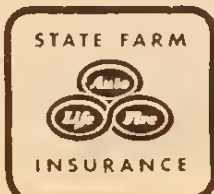
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Power Plant Plans

“Wired for Injustice?”

(Continued from Page 1)

Southeast San Francisco has suffered from excessive power plant-related polluting air emissions for decades, in addition to impacts from many other sources, including freeways, heavy diesel traffic, Muni facilities, and industrial neighbors. While supportive of efforts to close the Hunters Point plant and take the initial steps towards municipal power generation, some Potrero neighbors have complained that it would be an unfair burden to concentrate all power plant pollution at Potrero.

City officials acknowledge that the existing transmission system is “wired for injustice” — planned around the Potrero and Hunters Point power plants. As a result, there are only a handful of economically feasible locations for the new plants, and Potrero is on top of the list. Smeloff suggests that should Potrero accept near-term placement of several smaller power plants, it would help close the Hunters Point plant, minimize operation of the Potrero plant, and avoid an even worse fate — the possibility of another larger plant expansion at the Potrero site.

The SFPUC is currently exploring two plans for siting the CTs: one would place all four units next to the existing Potrero Plant near 23rd and Illinois streets; the other would site three CTs at Potrero, and one unit at Fifth and Jesse streets. While more expensive, the second plan would allow operation of a much more efficient co-generation plant South of Market, and would reduce up to 10 tons of potential new air emissions in the Potrero.

During a series of public workshops last summer, many neighbors vehemently opposed placement of any new fossil fuel pollution in the area and instead pushed for cleaner renewable energy projects.

Mayor Gavin Newsom says he supports efforts to close the Hunters Point Plant and phase out the Potrero plant, and he will work closely with District 10 Supervisor Sophie Maxwell to resolve the issue.

Maxwell has said she supports a plan to site no more than three new units at Potrero as part of the city’s overall energy solution — but only if it will secure closure of older plants in her district, and only if the surrounding Potrero neighborhood is provided with an appropriate mitigation package that “improves local air quality to the levels of other city neighborhoods.” No potential mitigation plans have been announced as of press time.

Air quality improvement will likely be a key part of any potential mitigation package. Southeast San Francisco neighborhoods have among the highest levels of asthma hospitalization rates in the city, and local pollution is believed to be a contributing factor. While the health department has instituted special asthma programs here, activists complain that the science of local air quality has not been studied closely enough nor adequately addressed.

Smeloff has told community leaders that the city already has plans to monitor air quality in the neighborhood surrounding the Potrero Plant, including the eastern side of Potrero Hill and Dogpatch. A similar air quality monitoring program is now being implemented in Bayview-Hunters Point by the San Francisco Department of the Environment.

For more information on the March 4 Electricity Resource Plan hearing or power plant issues, contact the office of Supervisor Maxwell at 415-554-7670 or at Sophie.Maxwell@sfgov.org.

John Borg lives and works in Dogpatch and serves on the Potrero Power Plant Task Force. E-mail him at borg@three9.com.

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Now You Can See Those Hearts Left in San Francisco

Remember the cows in Chicago, donkeys and elephants in Washington, D.C. and fish in New Orleans? Now visitors and residents of San Francisco and the Bay Area can literally "see" instead of "leave" their hearts in San Francisco. As many as 130, five-foot tall heart installations, designed by numerous artists and celebrities, will bring whimsy and "heart" to the sidewalks, plazas and street corners of the city and the Bay Area during the spring and summer of 2004.

The San Francisco General Hospital Foundation is launching Hearts in San Francisco to generate revenue in support of the numerous programs provided by the hospital's Medical Center. The Foundation hopes to earn at least one million dollars in net revenue to help support and sustain various programs. Twenty hearts will be auctioned off in November to raise money for the foundation in support of programs and services provided by the medical center.

The first of the many hearts to be seen throughout the city were sponsored by Wells Fargo, and by Intel, and were unveiled in Union Square on Valentine's Day, February 14. The Wells Fargo heart is covered in gold coins, representing the gold rush and the bank's rich history in California banking. The striped, inter-

locking heart reflects the many cultures and points of view of the Bay Area, including diversity and tolerance; the abundance of riches the Bay Area has to offer technologically, geographically and culturally; the sophisticated elegance of the city and its residents; and the friendliness and openness of this community.

"San Francisco General Hospital Medical Center provides extremely valuable and critically needed services to the people of the City and County of San Francisco," said Mayor Gavin Newsom at the opening ceremony. "The city is proud to support the Hearts in San Francisco project and invites the world to celebrate romance and art with us."

The S.F. General Hospital Foundation is the only organization dedicated to raising private and institutional funds, which are then applied directly to improve and care of patients at the Medical Center, whose mission is to deliver humanistic, cost-effective and culturally competent health services to the residents of the City and County of San Francisco and northern San Mateo counties, regardless of ability to pay.

For more information call the Foundation at 415-206-4478.

— Gretchen Krueger,
Hearts in San Francisco

The heart in Union Square, designed by artist Michael Osborne, is one of many hearts to be placed in and around San Francisco this spring and summer.

Ruth Passen photo

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The Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association is devoted to issues of particular importance to the Potrero Hill neighborhood. Our goals are to act as a forum for concerned Potrero residents and to participate actively in policy and development decisions that affect the quality of life here on the Hill.

Meetings are the last Tuesday of the month (7:00 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House) and are open to non-members.

Dues: Individual \$25, Household (couple) \$30, Senior \$20, Business \$30. Mail check to Potrero Boosters, 1459 18th St., #133, San Francisco, CA 94107. (Make checks payable to: "Potrero Boosters.")

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table organizations.

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'It's Up to the Women!'

(Continued from Page 3)

the FAIRNESS Act, which protects workers from discrimination on the basis of race, age, disability, or gender. I have long been a strong supporter of legislation to demand equal pay for equal work and to increase the minimum wage to help single mothers and working poor women provide for their families. Every day in Congress, my Democratic colleagues and I are working to create jobs for the unemployed women and men in our districts and to increase access to affordable health care.

I am so proud to be the first woman to lead a party in the U.S. House of Representatives. When I was first elected to that position, we made history. Now it is time to make progress. The only way we can do that is by working together to ensure equality and prosperity for all women and men.

This month, as we celebrate the achievements of women throughout history and work to continue that progress, we remember the words of Eleanor Roosevelt — "It's up to the women!"

To reach Nancy Pelosi's S.F. District Office call 415-556-4862, or e-mail her directly at sf.nancy@mail.house.gov

Those who profess to favor freedom and yet deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the land, they want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the roar of its many waters.

— Frederick Douglass, 1857

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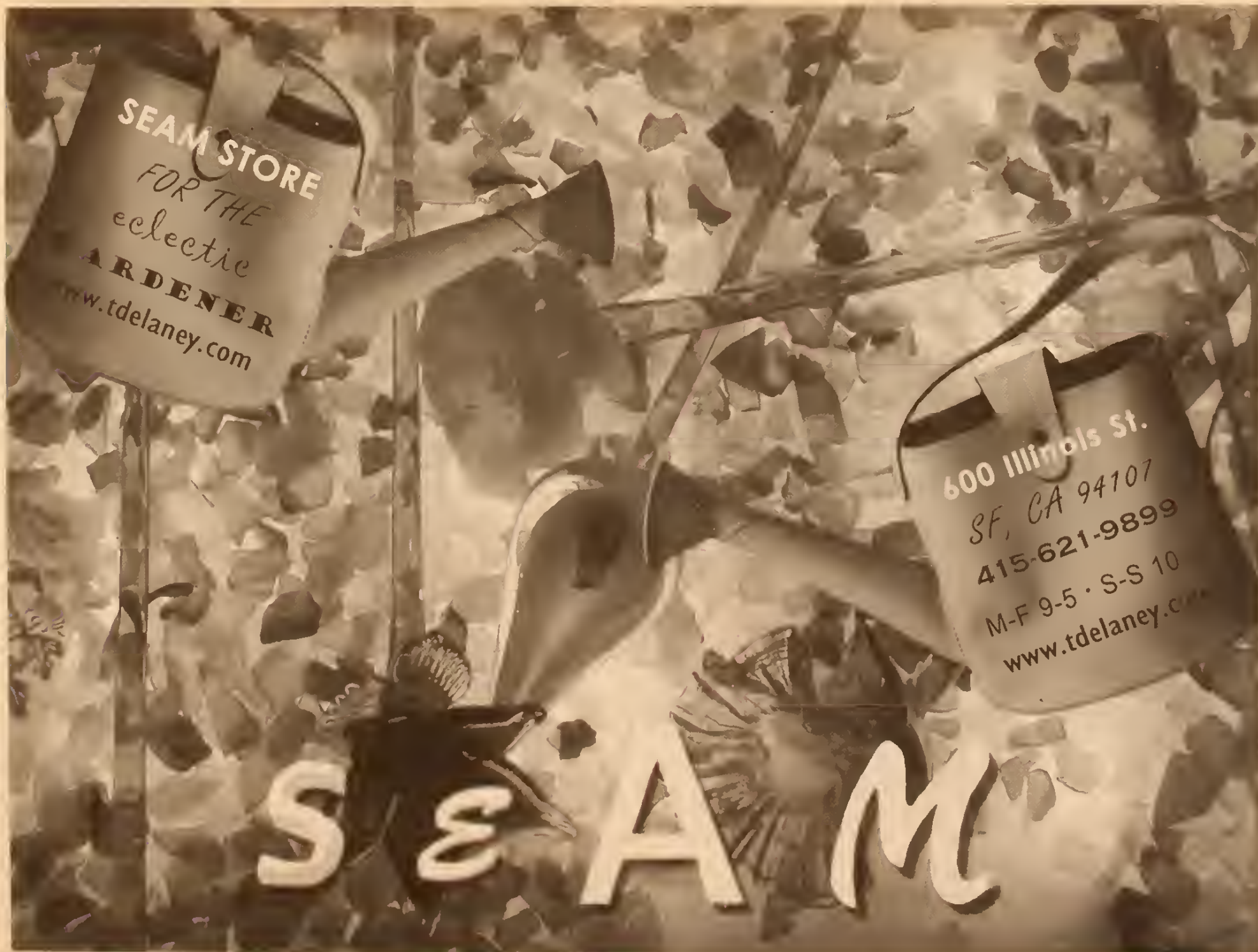
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Railroad Needs More Workers

By Gene Hinkle

The ongoing economic recovery is fueling a need for more workers at Union Pacific Railroad. Union Pacific has immediate job openings in Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland, Roseville, Sacramento, Watsonville and West Colton for qualified individuals interested in joining a training program for the railroad's train service operation.

"As the economy recovers and manufacturing increases, so does shipping, and that is creating a need for train service workers. We are actively seeking qualified applicants for immediate openings," said Bill Behrendt, assistant vice president of Human Resources at Union Pacific. "These entry level positions provide both monetary and career growth opportunities which could lead to positions as train engineers and potentially management."

Train service employees are responsible for the safe movement of freight trains and switching of cars in Union Pacific's train yards. Specific duties include climbing ladders to board standing or moving cars, operating hand brakes, coupling air hoses between cars, operating track switches, inspecting cars, and using hand and lantern signals.

Salaries for successful applicants start at about \$40,000 a year. Within a few years, those salaries potentially could increase to as much as \$70,000 a year based on job performance, seniority, location and work schedules.

To learn more about all employment opportunities and to apply for positions at Union Pacific, applicants should visit Union Pacific's Web site at www.up.com

and click on the "Jobs at UP" section. From there, click on "Union Pacific Railroad: View Positions" to search the database for open positions and locations of interest. Applications must be completed and submitted online for the job at the specific location of interest.

Those without access to computers should visit their local job service, public library or copy center. Applicants should be 18 years old, and those who receive a job offer are required to successfully complete a medical exam, drug test and background investigation. Other qualifications for these jobs are listed on the Web site.

Union Pacific Corporation is one of America's leading transportation companies. Its principal operating company, Union Pacific Railroad, is the largest railroad in North America, covering 23 states across the western two-thirds of the United States, with long-haul routes between all major West Coast ports and eastern gateways, and is the only railroad to serve all gateways to Mexico. It is a leading carrier of low-sulfur coal used in electrical power generation and has broad coverage of the large chemical-producing areas along the Gulf Coast.

Gene Hinkle is a public relations coordinator in the Corporate Relations Department at Union Pacific.

(Translation of ishkibbibly on page 10)



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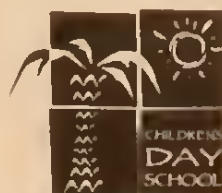
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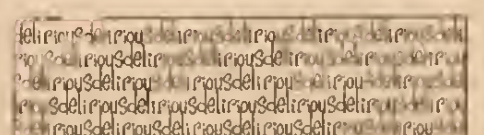
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